The discouery of a London Monster called, *the Black Dog of Newgate*: profitable for all Readers to take heed by.

Vide, Lege, Caue.
Time bringeth all things to light.

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To the Reader.

MArualle not gentle Reader, though in a mad humor, I haue thus publiſhed the black Dogge of Newgate, and here ſhewne his tricks to the wide world to wonder at, hee is but a Curre indeed, not worth three halfe pence to bee ſold, but if you will accept of my Pen and Paper, it may counteruaile the charge of ſixe pence, it is no better then an ill fauoured black Dogge, yet I deſire you not to thinke your time ill beſtowed in the Reading, nor the prize too great which you pay for it. When you haue peruſd it, and like it not, reward not my good will with a ſcoffe: But ſay the Dog came from Newgate, hang him vp and rend the booke in peeces, and then I will be your debter in a worke of more worth, but let mee tell you by the way, This Dogge, with many Dogs of his kind, haue I knowne a great while, and haue receiued by them great wrong: otherwiſe had I not beſtowed ſo much time in deciphering a Cur; Nay more, let mee giue you to vnderſtand; that this Dogge, thus ſhaddowed vnder the name of a ſeruant at New-gate,

was in my ſight, by head and ſhoulders thruſt out of Newgate: and now men choſen in ſteed of Dogges of farre more pitty and honeſty, then that hell-hound euer had.

Therefore let mee thus conclude, that neuer Cur in ſhape of man, in that place, ſhall commit the like abuſes: no more for the Dogge of Newgate: But for this Dogge of mine, wiſh mee well, and I will neuer doe you ill: Reſt content, and I am well pleaſed.

Fare you well.

THE
Discouery of a London Monster, called, *the Black Dogge* of Newgate.

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A Wonder, a wonder Gentlemen, Hell is broke lose and the black Dog of Newgate is got out of prison, and leapt into a signe: what the Deuills heere (quoth a mad fellow going by) seeing the black curre ring'd about the nose with a golden Hoope, his two salwee like eies, and an Iron chain about his neck, this cannot chuse (said hee) but bee a well customed house, wher such a Porter keps the doore and calls in company: Roome for a customer quoth I, so in I went, where I found, English, Scottish, Welch, Irish, Dutch and French in seuerall Roomes, some drinking the neate wine of Orleance, some the Gascony, some the Burdeaux, there wanted neither Sherry sack, nor Charnoco, Maligo, nor Peeter Semine, Ambercolour'd Candy, nor liquorish Ipocras, brown beloued Bastard, fat Aligent, or any quick spirited liquor that might draw their wits into a Circle, to see the Deuill by immagination: I seeing this Callimaufry of Company, set me downe and called for my whole pint alone, which I had not halfe drunk by, but there sits downe by me a poore Thin-gut fellow, with a face as red as the gilded knobbs of an Aldermans horse bridle, one, as it seemed newly come out of Limbo, with commendation to his rugged Diuellship Pounsier Shagge the Black Dog of Newgate, who being a fellow as I thought not worth sixpence in money yet would he spend eightpence to keepe me company. I, to equall his expences, called for as much, and thereupon having both our wits set upon the racke of inuention, began to argue of the Black Doggs

beginning and how he came first to be called the black Dog of Newgate, now touching the same, I maintained that I had red an old Chronicle, that it was a walking spirit in the likenesse of a black Dog, gliding vp and down the stréets a little before the time of execution, and in the night whilst the Sessions continued, and his beginning thus.

In the raigne of King Henry the third, there happened such a famine through England, but especially in London, that many starued for want of food, by which meanes the Prisoners in Newgate eat vp one another aliue, but commonly those that came newly in, and such that could make but small resistance, Amongst many others cast into this denne of misery there was a certaine scholler brought thither, vpon suspition of coniuring, and that he by charmes and diuilish witchcrafts, had done much hurt to the Kings subiects, which scholler, mauger his diuills furies, sprits and Goblins, was by the famished Prisoners eaten vp and déemed passing good meat., this being done, such an idle conceit possessed the minds of the poore Prisoners, that they supposed nightly to sée the scholler in the shape of a black Dog walking vp and downe the prison ready with his rauening Iawes to teare out their bowels for his late humane flesh they had so hungerly eaten, and withall they howerly heard (as they thought) strange groans and cries, as if it had bén some creature in great pain and torments, wherevppon such a nightly feare grew amongst them, that it turned to a frenzie, and from a frenzie to desparation, in which desperation they killed the kéeper, and so many of them escaped forth, but yet whether soeuer they came or went they immagined the black Dogge to follow, and by this meanes as I doe thinke, the name of him beganne.

Not so quoth Signior Thin-gut, I thinke it rather an idle fiction, then a probable truth, but this I must tell you Sir, (sayd hee) I know it for a truth, that there is no other black Dog, that I euer saw or heard of, but a great black

stone

ſtone ſtanding in the dungion called Limbo, the place where the condemned priſoners be put after their Iudgement, vpon which they ſet a burning candle in the night, againſt which, I haue hard that a deſperat condemned priſoner daſhed out his braines, and that is all the black dogs that I know, or hard of: But if you be ſo pleaſed as to publiſh it, I will ſatisfie the wondring world with a diſcourſe of the Black Dog in the beſt manner I can, and the very ſame, that the wiſeſt Iudgements thinks it to be. In ſo doing (quoth I) you pleaſe God, beneſit your Country, and ſatiſfie your friends: ſo with a ſtaied loke and in ſober manner, he began as followeth. Sir (quoth he) the Black Dog is a black conſcience, haunting non but black conditioned people, ſuch as New-gate may challenge to be gueſts, yet this rugged cur hath his ſeuerall abidings, as in the boſoms of Traytors, Murtherers, Theeues, Cut-purſes, Cunnycatchers and ſuch like, who bring the deuills black Parritor ſommons them, one after another, to appeare perſonably at his Hempton hall of three Legd Timbone, but in the meane time they commit many notable felonies and cozonings, to the great hurt of plaine minded people: as for example, I will firſt begin with a woman theefe, which in my mind is a limbe of the deuill, for at any notable robbery, where ſtill a woman is an actor, there likely is committed ſome murther or other, for as they be the kindeſt in loue, ſo are they cruelleſt in hate: But now to one woman theefe. I once knew liuing about London, a luſty wench, gentlewoman like, cloathed in ſilke and taffaty, good plate and rich furniture about her houſe, and well eſteemed of her neighbours that had no other meanes to maintaine her eſtate but plaine theeuery: in what manner thinke you? marry in this kind: ſhe had for her purpoſe a homely ſute of apparrell, like vnto a tradeſmans wife, a paire of ſhoes with cloth ſoles, to preuent crackling, a fire ſtick in her hand, vnkindled, and ſo in the morning betime would ſhe along the ſtreates, and any where ſhe did chance to eſpy either gen-

tlemans

tlemans or Marchants dore open, in she would, where being not intercepted by any, what thing soeuer lay in her way was good purchase, and with her it should: as hat, cloake, gown, petticoate, or smock, or such like: But if it chanced that either Maid-seruant or an Apprentize, or any other met her, then would she desire to kindle her stick, where sitting by the fire she would spend away the time houering ouer it, till the coast were cleare, or els would she in needy sort request a cup of small beere, which the honnest minded Maid will fetch her, thinking her to be some poore neighbor, perchance in a siluer Beaker, which she like an Hippocrite will sippe and simper ouer so long till the maids back be turned, and then goes away beaker and all: she will somtimes in her cloth shooes tread so softly that a mouse cannot heare her, and venture vp into a knightes Chamber, he and his Lady being in bed together, and carry aw y the Iewells they wore the day before, but if being spied by any of the Houshold, she hath the name of one Gentleman or other aright, which is well acquainted in that house, and so escapeth vnsuspected: other times she wil venture into Mercers or Silkemens shopps, when they are busied with most customers, as though she were some waiting-mayde to a Lady or Gentlewoman there present, and with a hooke vnder her wearing aparrell will, like a cunning Porter, beare away either silke, veluet or other rich stuffes, not perceiued by the shop-keepers, or any cullomer, many such conueyances is she craft-maister in, which in my mind are the black deeds of iniquity, and wel may she be called one of the black Dogs of Newgate, for at last, the rewards of Newgate will fall to hir share.

I could tell you likewise where the Black Dog keepes his randezuouz, if I do not mistake, in the bosome of Chamberlains and Tapsters in great Inns: and though the maister be an honnest man, the seruants may bee knauish, I speake not to all but to some as by the lawe probatum est: to our purpose: A plane Contry Gentleman, Yeoman,

Farmer,

Farmer, or ſuch like comming vp to the terme and chancing to happe ninto one of theſe Inns, he as a gueſt boldly throwes his cloake down vppon the Hall Table, thinking all trew men in the houſe, being as then full of Gueſts, in comes the Tapſter or Chamberlaine, in ieafting manner, and carries the cloake away in good ſadneſſe, either into the Tap-houſe, or into the hoſtry, and there kéepes it for his owne, the poore contriman miſſing it, makes inquiry, thinking ſome of the houſe had layd it vp, but no newes therof, (confeſſe and be hangd) thinkes he that képs it in Lauendor, in too ſweet a place for the contrymans hauing it againe, th, Inképer himſelfe hearing of this gueſts loſſe, goes chafing and fretting vp and downe, that his houſe is thus diſcredited by théeues, and layes waight at euery broakers, both in Long-lane, Charter-houſe-lane, Barbican, Hounſ-ditch and ſuch places, but no newes thereof, ſo is the Contryman ſent home to his wife without a cloake, perhaps with as little money, by which means the Inképer for euer after loſeth his gueſts.

Now come we to the Théfe, Tapſter or Chamberlain, I meane he that ſtole the cloake in ieaſt, he muſt now néds ſell it in good earneſt, to whom, to the Broakers? no for there is waite laide: whether then? to a neighbor? no neither, for then it may come to light and bée knowen of his maſter: but vnto a kind of Fripperers, it muſt bée vented, which be certaine Marchants of old wares, going vp and down to buy liſts, ends of cloth, and old cloakes, one of theſe muſt buy it, and ſend it into France, to learne the French toung, or into the Netherlands to ſpeake Duch, theſe be terrible black Doggs indéd, and haue ſawcer-like eyes that can loke braad and wide quite ouer a whole Citty: but let them alone and loſe themſelues in their own aduentures, it concernes not mé, there is a whip in ſtore for theſe Doggs, and their kennells will be ranſackt I feare me. But now to wade déper into this Labyrinth of knauery, I will tell you as notable a prank as euer you

heard by one of these arche bandoggs done within these
few yeares, There were two of this faculty which I neme
M. A: and M B: whom (to bring this their proceeding pur-
pose to effect) either bought or hired two chaines, the one
of perfect good gold, the other plaine copper double gilt,
and away go they into the Country towards Beuerly faire
in Yorke shire, well mounted vppon two goodly geldings,
as they had bene two substantiall Gentlemen, and riding
by the way they happened into company of a Northerne
Gentleman riding from London, wit
liberally, & euery night at their lodgin
both at boord and bed, in this familier
some two or three dayes, they began
purpose, and to cast forth their angl
this greedy gudgion: first Maister A
ding as they rode together, got some
ground before the Gentleman, and his
after a good pace, and lets fall the rig
within a Buckram bagge, in the sight
ly in the high way, who seing it, starte
Gentleman taking it hastily vp, saying
Buckram bagge, a prize: halfe part gu
not so quoth Maister A. I found it,
(quoth the Gentleman) and will haue h
the next market: During this contr
toke Maister B. who had let fall the
made Vmpire betwixt them, gaue iudg
be equally shard, whereupon opening the bagge, they found
therin, wrapped in faire paper, a good chaine of gold, worth
some foure score pound: the Northerne Gentleman hauing
it in his hand, made bold to keepe it till they came to Be-
uerly, where at a Gold-smiths shop they tryed it, and being
toucht thorowly, the Gold-smith proferred for it full foure
score pounds in ready money: nay said the Gentleman, if
it be so good, I will haue it my selfe, and giue Maister A.
forty pound for his part: Whereupon both being agreed,
home

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STAINED

they goe to the Gentlemans house, and receiued their mo-
ney: but now marke the Jest, whilest the money was a
telling, Maister B. cunningly conuayes the copper chaine
into the place where the gold chaine lay, vpon the table, be-
ing like to it, put in a Buckram bag and all, that one could
not know one from the other, so hauing receiued the mo-
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iourney, leauing the Northerne Gentleman nothing but a
Copper chaine for his forty pound, who perhaps like a
[illegible] receiued it till the guilt was wrong of,
o hee loke my two gallants: marry,
vnlesse it were howling at the grate
those pittifull creatures: hauing told
gan to ring nine a clock, whereupon
shut vp the doores it as late, caused
peake company, who paide for our
other, and so departed, hee to his lod-
where being no sooner layd in my bed,
our passed discourses of the Black
eginning; I fell into a most vnquiet
the night long troubled with a most
nce thought I was my selfe prisoner,
loden with Irons in great misery,
te of friends, money-lesse, and for-
aintance, this following dialogue is,
wixt my selfe and one Zany, who was
[illegible] as I was, and perfectly acquainted
with matters touching the discouery of the superlative
degree of Cunny-catchers: pithy, pleasant, and profitable
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heard by one of these arche bandoggs done within these fewe yeares, There were two of this faculty which I neme M. A: and M B: whom (to bring this their proceeding purpose to effect) either bought or hired two chaines, the one of perfect good gold, the other plaine copper double gilt, and away go they into the Centrey towards Beuerly faire in Yorkshire, well mounted vppon two goodly geldings, as they had beene two substantiall Gentlemen, and riding by the way they happened into company of a Northerne Gentleman riding from London, with whom they spent liberally, & euery night at their lodgings were all fellowes both at boord and bed, in this familier sort riding together some two or three dayes, they began thus to effect their purpose, and to cast forth their angling hookes to catch this greedy gudgion: first Maister B. spurring his gelding as they rode together, got some quarter of a mile of ground before the Gentleman, and his fellow knaue riding after a good pace, and lets fall the right gold chaine tyed within a Buckram bagge, in the sight of Maister A. directly in the high way, who seing it, starteth a little before the Gentleman taking it hastily vp, saying, A prize, a prize in a Buckram bagge, a prize: halfe part quoth the Gentleman, not so quoth Maister A. I found it, but I am witnesse (quoth the Gentleman) and will haue halfe, or cry it lost in the next market: During this controuersie, they ouertooke Maister B. who had let fall the chaine, and being made Umpire betwixt them, gaue iudgment, that it should be equally shard, whereupon opening the bagge, they found therin, wrapped in faire paper, a good chaine of gold, worth some foure score pound: the Northerne Gentleman hauing it in his hand, made bold to keepe it till they came to Beuerly, where at a Gold-smiths shop they tryed it, and being toucht thorowly, the Gold-smith preferred for it full foure score pounds in ready money: nay said the Gentleman, if it be so good, I will haue it my selfe, and giue Maister A. forty pound for his part: Wherevpon both being agreed,

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and then where should hee looke my two gallants? marry,
God knowes where, vnlesse it were howling at the grate
at Newgate, amongst those pittifull creatures: hauing told
this tale, the bell began to ring nine a clock, whereupon
the Vintner calling, shut vp the doores it is late, causing
my friend and I to breake company, who gaue for our
Wine, thanking each other, and so departed, hee to his lod-
ging, and I to mine, where being no sooner layd in my bed,
and calling to minde our passed discourses of the Black
Dogge and his first beginning, I fell into a most vnquiet
slumber, and was all the night long troubled with a most
fearefull dreame, for me thought I was my selfe prisoner
in Newgate, lying loden with Irons in great misery,
where being destitute of friends, money-lesse, and for-
saken of all my acquaintance, this following dialogue is
the subiect passed betwixt my selfe and one Zany, who was
likewise a prisoner as I was, and perfectly acquainted
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The interlocutors. { The Author, and Zany a prisoner.

Author.

ZAny. I haue many times bene in hand with thee to giue me some notes vpon thy knowledge, as concerning the notable abuses committed by a sort of dissolute fellowes, who are in very deed the worst members in a common-wealth; I meane infamous cunny-catching knaues, who continually seeke the spoile of others to inritch themselues, and now is the time thy helpe will do me some pleasure: for at the request of a very friend, I was moued to write some-thing of worth, whereupon I made choise of the black Dog of Newgate, to bee a subiect to write vpon, wherein I could not chuse, diuerse strong reasons especially mouing thereunto, but in that title shadow the knauerie, villanie, robberie, and cunny-catching, committed daily by diuers, who in the name of seruice and office, were as it were attendants at Newgate. Againe I did chuse to giue my booke that title, aswell to satisfie some, who yet thinke there is some spirit about that prison in the likenesse of a black Dog: of which fond imagination to put them out of doubt, I thought good to giue them to vnderstand, that indeed there is no such matter. The third reason was, for I being in Newgate a prisoner, and ouer-throwne by these kinde of bad people, with their cunny-catching, in most vile and wicked manner, in so much that whilest I there languished in great extremity, I did both heare and see many outragious iniuries by them committed on diuerse sorts of people: the premisses considered, I doe intreate thee to let mee haue thy helpe to set downe some of their villanies committed in thy knowledge, and I will not be slack to present this booke, being finished, into their godly hands: who will assuredly giue them condigne punishment, as also prouide, that the like mischiefes shall neuer be any more put in practise by any notable villaines.

Zany.

Zany. Indeed you say well, and I agree: but yet you know I am a poore man, and am a Prisoner. Againe, it is ill medling with edge tooles. As you comprehend them in the name of a Dog: so if they be angry, they will bite, and play the deuill in their likenesse. They haue parlous heads, store of money, and some good friends: all which I want. Neither will I name any: but if their knaueries were knowne, it would be thought the gallowes as fit for these Cunny-catchers, as Newgate is for mee, who am rather kept vp to bribe them, then to answer any offence I haue committed: yet seeing you haue begun well, I would wish you end no worse: and for my part, tell you one of their knaueries, and Ile tell another: so that ere wee haue done, if wee tell all, the Cunny-catcher will thinke wee haue told too much. But by your leaue a word, I will name no man, for if they should bee named, their friends would be angry: and more then that, I rather wish their amendment then their publike infamie: of which motion if you like, begin when you will, and when you are weary rest you, and I will goe on with it: for our matter being all one, no doubt our conclusion will be to the like effect.

Godly, wise, honorable, worshipfull, and gentle Reader, know first there be an infinite number of this sect and company of cunny-catchers, therefore it were an endlesse peece of worke to name them all: but for I know too many of them, and haue likewise paide for my acquaintance with them, it may be expected I should name some of them, which for the inconuenience might thereby insue, I thought good to craue your patience on that behalfe, assuring you, that they are easie enough to bee knowne by their coullers: but what wicked parts they haue performed, I will not faile but make manifest. Therefore, first I desire you to imagine, that these fellowes, these Cunny-catchers, I would say, doe promise to the world great matters: as for example. They will vndertake if a man be robd by the way, they will helpe the party offended to his money againe, or to the theeues at the least. Likewise, if a Purse be cut, a house broken, a peece of

Plate stole, they will promise the like: mary, to further this good peece of seruice, they must haue a Warrant procured from some Iustice at the least, that by the said general warrant, they may take vp al suspected persons: which being obtained, then marke how notably therewith they play the knaues, how shamefully they abuse the Iustices who granted the warrant, & how notoriously they abuse a great sort of poore men, who neither the warrant mentioneth, nor the party agreeued in any wise thought to molest or trouble: and for they shadow al their villanies vnder colour of some especial warrant, let it suffise thee to read the sequel, & then iudge of their abuses, as they deserue. Now first will I begin with their petty practises in their lewd actions. Say there is a man or two robd by the high way not far from London: the rumor hereof being bruted in the city, these fellows wil be sure to haue intelligence with the first, in what maner the men were robd, how much mony they lost, & where they dwel: the reason is this, The Cunnycatchers haue alwaies abroad some od fellowes which are inquisitors of purpose, who alwaies what they heare rumord, they presently come and certifie their good maister Cunnycatchers, of al whatsoeuer, how, where, & when this robbery was committed: presently away goes E. H. or N. S. or some of that sect, & inquires out the party that was robd: with whom, if H. or S. hap to met withall, some occasion shal presently be found to intrude themselues into the company of them be robbed: and after some circumstances, the Cunny-catcher begins to tell of a strang robbery committed in such a place, saying it was shamfully done: & withal, they wil cast some words a farre off, as who should say in effect: if I be not deceiued I know the theeues, and it may be, that if I might speake with him or them that were robd, happily I should direct them how they might take the villaines.

All this while the Cunnycatcher taketh no notice of them that were robbed, neither doth the Cunnicatcher make

make any shew, that they knew any such matter to be den to any in the company.

Now the poore men that were robd, hearing their smoth spæches, one of them begins very honestly to shape his tale in this, or such like maner. My honest friend, I know too well that such a robbery was done, and in very dead I was the man was robbed in such a place, and at such a time as you speake off. I beseech you good friend, stand me in what stead you may: and if you can helpe me againe to my money, or to take the Theeues, I wil not onely think my self greatly beholding to you, but I wil also please you to your content. I am a poore man, I pray you do me what pleasure you may, good sir, I beseech you. These and such like speeches he vseth. The Cunnicatcher presently iorneth issues with him, and with much cunning he tempereth his talke. To be short, he offereth all the pleasure he can doe him: but quoth he, you know I am a stranger vnto you, and I know not whether you will vse me well or no: It may be, when I haue done you good, you will lightly reward me. But ile tell you what ile doe: Giue me but forty shillings in hand to beare my charges the time I may search for them, and if I do not deserue it, I will restore it againe, and lose all my labour: if you like of this motion, so it is: if not, I will not deale in your matter hot nor cold.

When the man that was robbed, heareth him so briefe, yet loth to part company on the soddaine: he intreateth to know the Cunnicatchers name, and where he dwelleth. To this question, an other of the Cunnicatchers companions maketh this reply. Honest man, you need not doubt of his good meaning towards you: This is such a one as may do you pleasure, if he please to vndertake it. Then he roundeth the man in the eare, and telleth him his name is E. H. and that he knoweth all the Theeues about London, and that he hath done more good in helping men to their owne, then can be deuised to be done by a hun-

a hundred others praising him for a wonderful good member in a Common-wealth: further certifying the party where this E. H. dwelleth, and with an oth whispering, he wisheth him to giue him some xx. s. and then agree what he shall giue him more, when the Theeues be taken, making many protestations that he need not to misdoubt of E H. his honest dealing with him in any respect.

Presently the poore man putteth his hand into his pocket and out he puls an Angel: then saith he, M. H. I haue heard of you before, and for I haue heard nothing but well of you, I am the willinger to deale with you: truly here is an Angel for you, and I will giue you a gallon of wine at the Tauerne, and if you do me good in this matter, I will giue you xx. s. more: then with some intreaty he desireth him to take it in good part and so giueth him the money.

The Cunny-catcher taketh the money very quaintly, as though he would refuse it, but in the end he pockets it vp, & is willing to goe to the Tauerne, wher after that drinking a gallon or two of wine, they conclude of the former matter: and E. H. wil out of hand get the theeues into Newgate, & so much he promiseth to performe vppon his honest fidelity, not letting to say, if he do it not he dare be honged for it.

Then the day is appoynted, when within a weeke the party robbed shall come to Newgate to know what newes and for that time they part, the honest man to his home or about his businesse, the Cunny-catchers to som other odde place about their knauery, where they laugh at the Cunny, deuising how to get him in for more mony, neuer intending to do any thing in the matter, which they haue vndertaken for the honest man, whose Angell they drinke merrily.

Now we will leaue this man for a while to his busines of more profit, and I will proceed with the Cunny-catchers for their practizes.

These Cunny-catchers are neuer idle: and therefore it followeth next to let you vnderstand of a notable peece of seruice the sayd H. and S. plaid with a freind of mine.

It

It happened my friend being some time in question, could not misse but he must needs haue acquaintance with these od thaners: and thus it fell out. My friend being in a Tauerne drinking with some of his acquaintance, whilst they were drinking together, in comes H.S who presently vsed great courtesie to my friend: but to be short, they take full survey of his weapons, his good cloake, and neate apparrell, which was enough for them to imagine that my friend had store of money: whereupon they asked if he would giue them a pottle of wine? which he willingly granted: and so after one pottle, he gaue them another: the reckoning paide, and the company ready to depart, quoth S. to E.H. I pray you hearke in your eare.

Presently he whispereth. Thus it is, my fellow hath a warrant to take you: therefore in kindnesse I wish you to draw to your purse, and giue him an angel to drinke, and I will vndertake he shall not see you at this time.

My friend hearing his tale tend to a Cunnicatching effect, he begins to sweare they are Cunnycatching knaues, and they shall not wrong him in any respect.

To be short, the Cunnicatcher sends for a Constable, and charges the party aforesaid with felony: the Constable knowing them to be in office (but not to be such bad fellowes) he presently apprehendeth the party: which don, the Cunnicatchers seeing the prisoner in safe keeping, disfurnished of his weapons, they presētly require the prisoner of the Constable, & they will be his discharge: which the Constable did, thinking no lesse then they were right honest mē.

Now marke what followed. As these two knaues were a bringing this party charged with felony to Newgate, one of them offereth yet for xx.s. to set him frée: of which, when the party had considered, knowing though he were cleare of that he was charged, yet if he lay in Prison till the Sessions, it would be greater charges. When he was on Newgate stares, ready to go into the Gaile, he was content to leaue his cloak, that money he had in his purse, and

his weapons which were in the Constables hand pawne for the xx.s. which the Cunnycatchers toke, and discharged the prisoner without any more to doe.

Not long after, the aforesaid Cunnicatchers met with this their Cunny of xx. s. price, and an other who was knowne to be as they terme him a good fellow about the towne in his company.

And where mete they, but in a Tauerne not farre without Bishops gate, where these two poore Cunnies had spoken for supper: amiddest their good cheere, in comes H. and S. bidding them be merry with their fare. One of these two being an odde fellow and in dread of these Cunnicatchers, knowing them very perfectly set on the best face he could, & bad them welcome, intreating them to sit downe, and doe as they did, of which proffer the Cunnicatchers accepted willingly, and sate downe with them and eate and drunke merrily: supper being ended, the reckoning was cald for, the shot paid, and allthings discharged, the Cunnies would faine haue beene gone.

Nay quoth N. S. for of the two he was the grimmer knaue and had most skill to talke, I must let you know that which indeed I am sorry to doe. Yet if you will doe your selues good you may vse vs well, and we will not vse you amisse, to be short, thus it is, such a man was robd within this weeke, and he hath got out a warrant for you two by name. He hath lost ten pounds: now if you will restore the money, and bestow xx.s on vs two to drinke for our paines, we will vndertake to satisfie the party and be your discharge, if not, we haue a warrant, and you must answer it at Newgate.

This back reckoning is something sharpe, but there is no remedy, either pay so much money, or else must a Constable be sent for, and so to Newgate as round as a hoope.

To be short, this was the conclusion, the Cunnies paide downe xl. l. euery penny, whereof ten pound was to be paide to the man in the mowne, for I dare take it vpon

my

my death neither of these Cunnies did offend any such man, in manner as these knaues had charged them.

Zany. By your leaue a word, al this whil you haue not cõcluded what became of the first Cunny these odde shauers met with, I pray you be briefe, and let vs heare how he was ended withall, and then you shall heare me tell you of wonders, if these be held to be but of moment.

Author. Well then to the first Cunny againe at his time appointed, he commeth to the wise man of Newgate to inquire what is done in his matter, and at Newgate the Cunny findeth his odde acquaintance with E.H. who at the first sight hath the time of the day for him, much curtesies, but to the tauerne they must to debate the matter, where they must haue a pottle of the best. Whilest the Wine is a filling, the Cunnicatcher sheweth what great paine he hath taken to come by the theeues, and how hardly they mist of them: but for it is best to vse few words, the Cunnycatcher from one day to an other still driueth off the Cunny, who is still in hope that the Cunnicatcher meaneth good faith, whereas indeed he neuer made account what faith was: so to be short, if the theeues robd him of some fiue or sixe pound, he hath got, or he find where he is, a drie shaning as much as forty or fifty shillings more.

I tell thee Zany me thinkes these are notable villanies, and pitty they should not be punished, who liue by no other meanes but practising such prankes as these be.

Againe this is a generall rule to the Cunnicatcher, that when or where he meets with such a one as hath bin at any time committed to Newgate, if that fellow haue good apparrell on his back, the Cunnicatcher taketh acquaintance of him and a quart of Wine they must needs drinke, when ỹ reckoning comes to paiment, ỹ Cunnicatcher hath brought no money from home that day, so by the others drawing of his purse to pay for the Wine, he knoweth what lyning is in it, then if he haue money, the Cunnicatcher is in hand with him for a bribe, some odde crowne or

an Angel to drinke: if the man be in any fault, fearing the worst, he will not stand with him for a tryfle: if he be in no fault, perhaps he tels, in faith you are deceiued in me, I am not he you take me for, and so parteth and giueth him nothing.

Presently the Cunnycatcher vseth all meanes to know where he lies, which when he hath done, within a night or two away goes this knaue with some old warrant to the Constable of that liberty, crauing his aid to apprehend a bad fellow who is thought to haue done much mischiefe, but for a surety he auoucheth him for an arrand théefe, & ẏ he hath bin in Newgate. Upō these speeches the Constable goes with this H. where the poore man lies, & apprehends him and conuaies him to Newgate, laying some Justices cōmandment on him, where he lies til the sessions, vnlesse he come off roundly with a bribe to the Cunnicatcher: but say the Cunnicather be mistaken in this fellowes pursse, & that he haue not so much as he supposed, yet the Cunnicatcher is so strong of faith, that he wil not beléeue the contrary: so by this meanes the poore man lieth in prison till he be quite a beggar, without releasment til the proclamation at the Sessions, at which time he is not worth the ground he goes on, neither knoweth he, being vtterly ouerthrowne, how to haue any remedy: which is pittiful and lamentable.

Zany. I muse you should account of these trifling matters, wheras indéed they are nothing in respect of the prizes they haue plaid, and if you will giue me leaue a little, I will come something nearer the Cunnycatcher then you haue yet done.

Author. I pray thée doe: yet I must néeds tel thee I haue bin too néere the Cunnicatcher, and what I haue spoken of him it is not only with griefe but with sorrow to my heart, & anguish of soule, that these outrages should be committed, to the vtter vndoing of so many, as within this thirty yéeres haue beene: for so long did I heare one of these villaines vaunt he had beene in office about Newgate:

and

and what I haue done or said on this behalfe, with my life and death, I am ready to make proofe of it, that it is true. This minde I beare, that the Diuell should haue his due of these knaues, and I do it my duty to reueale what soeuer is to the good of a common-wealth: and so I will, though the Cunny-catcher sweare to giue me a cut in the legge for my labour, and now Zany I pray thee go forward.

Gentlemen, though I want eloquence, yet you shall see I haue a rowling tounge, deepe knowledge, and am a reasonable fellow to bewray many matters touching Cunny-catching.

Maister Greene, God be with thee, for if thou hadst liued a while, knowing what I know, thou wouldst as well haue made worke as matter, but for my part I am a plaine fellow, and what I know I will not bee meale mouthed, but blab I will, and out it must: nay and out it shall, for as the Comedian said, Plenus rymatum sum.

I know twenty and twenty of these fine Cunny-catchers, who learne of the fencers to double a blow, knowing what belongs to the button, and the bob: yet for the Author hath onely vsed foure letters for two names, let them stand, and when I name E. he must thinke Zany can see whilst there is an eye in his head. H. is aspirationis nota, and no letter indeed, therefore I care not if this Cunny-catching H. were wip'd out of the letters rowe to hang on the Gallowes, who is fitter to bee a figher to make vp a number at Tyborne, then to be a man of so bad condition. As for a pottle of Wine he cares not who he hangs so he may haue it, if it be but the Wine.

N. is the first of the second name the Author vseth. No knaue I warrant you: and as for S. if hee be in some sort a knaue to be prooued, he will be contented, nay he must in spight of his teeth digest the name of a Cunny-catcher, for by that arte being not worth one groate a yeare, he is able by his fine wit to maintaine himselfe in his Sattin dublet, Veluet hose, his Hatte lin'd with Veluet, his silke sock, his Rapier and Dagger gilt, his golden brouche, and all

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Not long since, at a Tylting vpon triumph on the Crownation day: many good subiects with ioy assembled the place of Triumph, aswell reioycing to see the Quens most excellent Maiestie, as also to see the Tylting performed, by sundry noble and right honorable personages.

Amongst the rest, there comes a woman with six pounds in her purse, which the Cutpurse met withall, she as it seemed hauing more minde on the pleasures of the present day and time, then shee had of her purse.

The Iousts ended for that day, the woman thinking all had beene well, takes her way homeward with a friend of hirs, yet by the way, this good woman must needs drinke with her friend a pinte of Wine: but heere was the mischiefe, when the Wine was to bee paid for, the woman miss her purse, and loking on the strings, with a cold heart shee might perceiue her purse was cut away.

Her friend to comfort her, bad her take no thought, for he knew a man would helpe her to her purse againe, and saith he, we will presently go to him, for I know where he dwels.

The woman thanked her friend for his courteous offer, and away they go to F. H. his house, where they found him, to whom they brake the matter wholy how it was, desiring his helpe. Presently hee had them in the winde, and bad them welcome, promising that if they would content him for his paines he would do her good, asking her what shee would willingly bestow to haue her money againe: at the first word shee offered him forty shillings. All this was well, and they agree to meet the next day about White hall, where they shall haue answer to their content: and so after they had drunke a quart of Wine at the Tauerne, for that night

night they parted. The next day, according to promise they met, and this E.H. had in his company a man, who he said was a Constable, but whither he said truly or no I will not say, but to the matter: They appoint the woman to go to a friends house hard by, and she should heare more anon. Away went she, as they had appointed her, and away goe they to looke for Cutpurses.

I warrant you they sought not long, but here they met with a Cutpurse, whom they take by the sleeue: and there they meet with an other as good a cutpurse as the former, so they take at the least a dosen Cutpurses: which when they haue done, the Cunnicatcher begins to ratle might tely, swearing they shall some of them be hanged: but to prison they shal also, vnlesse this money be had againe, shewing a Warrant, or a peece of paper at the least: which is sufficient to beare the Cunnicatcher harmelesse, as he saith.

Now the Cutpurses, though they be al cleere of this matter, yet they begin to quake for feare, offering rather then they wil go to prison, they will make vp the money, so that E H. wil promise to giue it them againe when the cutpurse shalbe known, who cut the purse in deed. This motion the Cunnicatcher liketh indifferently: and so of these dosen of cutpurses, he taketh of some more, and of some lesse, that the sum is largely made vp: which done, they are all discharged, mary they must haue some twenty shillings ouerplus for their paines and kindnesse shewed to the Cutpurses, all which is granted.

To be short, no Cutpurse scapt their hands, but he paide a share, so that there was gathered the first day at the least ten pounds amongst Cutpurses, and the next day this E. H. met with the Cutpurse, who cut the purse indeed, of whom he tooke the money, with the vantage, and let him goe, without answering the matter: and to conclude, the woman had foure pound of her money againe, and so the matter was no more spoken of.

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uerie, and yet this is no knauery in respect of that I will shew you in this next discouery of their Cunny-catching.

At the Yearme time, these fellowes H. and S. haue had great booties by their practises in this Arte, and this is their manner.

In the morning away they goe to Westminster hall, where they know the Cut-purse will bee about his businesse, but the Cunny-catchers are not without a couple, who are their consorts: who assone as they come to the Hall, thrust in amongst the thickest, and there they listen to heare if any purse were cut that day.

Likewise, the Cunny-catchers, they take their standings, one of them at the Water side, the other in some close place, at an other gate: so that lightly a Cut-purse cannot come out of the Hall, but one of them shall spye him, and take him by the sleeue, if the Cut-purse haue done any thing, word is presently brought to the Tauerne, whither the Cunny and the Cunny-catcher are gone to drinke. Now if it be some small summe, the Cunny-catcher sheweth the Cunny a good countenance, but if it be a large sum, as fiue pounds, or vpwards, the Cunny-catcher dissembling his intent, will not stay but the drinking a pottle of Wine.

The Cutpurse intreats their company, and offereth both Wine and a breakefast, but all is in vaine, the Cunny-catcher will not tarry, swearing a great oath, hee is sorry that it was his chance to see this Cunny or Cut-purse this day, for there is a mischiefe done, and he feares some will smoake for it. At this the Cut-purse is afeard, but he for that time scapeth their fingers, for the Cunny-catcher will tarry no longer.

Now the Cunny-catcher sendeth presently one of his company to seeke out the party who had his purse cutte, which he performeth with diligence, and meeting with him, hee tels the party that hee heard hee lost his purse at Westminster, and if he will be aduised by him, he will help him to the most of his money againe.

This

This honeſt man glad to haue part againe of his mony, offereth at the firſt word, the one halfe to haue the other, aſſuring this odde fellow for certainty, that he loſt tenne pounds.

Well (ſaith this Factor for the Cunny-catcher) if your leaſure will ſerue to goe with mee, I will bring you to one doth partly know who cut your purſe, therefore it is your way to follow his counſaile, and I warrant you, my life for it, but you ſhall haue your deſire.

Hereat the honeſt man is glad, and willingly goeth along with him to a place where hee knoweth E. H abideth his comming: Now being met, the Wiſe man of Newgate begins at the firſt dash, to tell them whereabout they come, euen in as ample manner, as if the man who had his purſe cut, had told the tale himſelfe.

No maruaile though the Countrey man doe wonder a while at the matter, but in the end, hee telleth him it is ſo indeed, and according to the firſt motion they agree, which is the one halfe for the other: the Countryman willing to refer the matter wholy to this Cunny-catchers diſcretion.

Then away goes the Countreyman with H. the Cunny-catcher, to a Juſtice, to whom he ſignifieth in euery reſpect, how his purſe was cut, deſiring of the Juſtice a warrant to take vp all ſuſpected perſons: of which motion the Juſtice, intending to doe Juſtice, grants his warrant, and giues it to H. willing him to certifie him what ſhall be done on that behalfe, as the Warrant intendeth.

This Warrant obteined, the Cunny-catcher is as pleaſant as a Pye, taking his leaue of the Juſtice, away goes the Countryman, and his good friends with him, and to the Tauerne ſtraight, where they ſpend ſome time in drinking a pottle of the beſt Wine, which the Countryman muſt pay for: which done, H. taketh his leaue of his client, promiſing him not to be ſlack in his buſineſſe, which done, they part, the Countreyman to his lodging, or as his occaſion ſerueth, and the Cunny-catcher about his facultie.

Now woe to the Cutpurſſes, for as H. happeneth to meet with them, they muſt to Newgate, ſhewing warrent ſufficient for a greater matter.

But you muſt take notice, that of a dozen or ſixtaine Cutpurſes who he hath apprehended, he is ſure enough that he which cut the purſſe indeed ſhall be none of them.

This honeſt company of Cutpurſſes being al in Newgate H. goes preſently and certifies the Juſtice, what a ſort of notable Theeues he hath taken, deſiring the Juſtice to ſend for them at his pleaſure, to examine them about the Country-mans Purſſe, aſſuring the Juſtice that they are cunning Theeues, and that hee dare lay his life, they will confeſſe nothing: which indeed the Juſtice findeth true: for, they being examined, will confeſſe as much as neare a whit.

To Newgate away they go againe, where they make all meanes to H. to ſtand their friend, ſhewing their innocencie: yet rather then they will lye in priſon, one offereth ten ſhillings, an other twenty ſhillings, ſome more, ſome leſſe, as they are of abilitie: offering farther, to giue beſides the ſumme, euery one ſomething to H. for his good word to the Juſtice, that they may be ſet at libertie.

Now the Cunny-catcher hath the matter as hee would wiſh it, and taking their mony firſt, he preſently goes to the Juſtice and certifieth him, that theſe which hee hath apprehended, did none of them cut the Purſſe: & for he hath gotte knowledge who did, he deſireth that they may be bailed.

The Juſtice glad to heare the truth is knowne, is willing to ſet them at liberty, which vpon their baile he granteth. Of this money the Countrey man hath neuer a penny, and all theſe Cut-purſes are ſet at liberty.

Which done, H. ſeeketh diligently for the Cutpurſſe, who did the matter indeed: with whom when hee meeteth, hee ſpareth not to tell him how ſore the Juſtice is againſt him, and how earneſtly the Countrey man will purſue the Law: and further hee ſweareth, that ſome of them who were in Newgate told the Juſtice plainly, that he cut the Purſſe.

This peale rings nothing well in the Cutpurſſes eares who can find no fauour, but to Newgate: yet vpon intreatie made by the Cutpurſſe, the Cunny-catcher promiſeth, that for his part he will do him any good hee can, wiſhing the Cutpurſſe, as he is wiſe enough, ſo it were good for him to hold his owne, and confeſſe nothing to the Iuſtice, what proofe ſo euer come againſt him, and in ſo doing, it may lye in his power to doe him good: telling him further, that the man who loſt the money, though hee bee ſore bent againſt him, yet he will partly be ruled by him.

Well, to Newgate mareheth this H. with his Cutpurſſe: where he ſo welcome him for all his fayre words, hee clappeth on his legges a good payre of Boults and Shackls: which done, he ſendeth for the Countrey-man, and telleth him of theſe good tidings, how the theefe is taken, and how he hath vſed him.

The next way they take, is to the Iuſtice, to whom H. ſignifieth how the caſe ſtandeth, raying mightily againſt the Cut-purſſe, euen in the worſt maner he can deuiſe: ſaying, it will be euidently proued that he cut the Purſſe, and none but he: further he requelleth that the Cutpurſſe may bee examined. The Cutpurſſe is ſent for, who to euery queſtion the Iuſtice can demand, hauing taken out his leſſon (Confeſſe and bee hanged) hath his anſwer ready, ſo that there can be no aduantage taken by his examination.

The Iuſtice returneth him to Newgate againe to abide till the next Seſſions, requiring the party to bee bound to giue euidence againſt him: but the countrey man dwelling farre from London, and it being long to the next Law day, alleadgeth, he cannot be in the Cittie at that time, for hee is a poore man, and hath great occaſion of buſineſſe, ſo that he cannot be there to giue euidence neither can hee ſay if hee would, any thing againſt that party: for to farre as he can remember, he neuer ſaw that fellow before in his life.

Yet H. promiſeth, that it ſhall be proued againſt the Cutpurſſe: ſo the Countrey man & H. take their leaues of the

Iustice, making them as though they would come againe, though it be no part of H. his meaning.

H. goeth straight to Newgate, where hee falles in hand with the Cutpurse, swearing vnto him by his honesty, that he hath laboured the party who had his Purse cut, to take his money againe, and not to giue euidence against him, assuring him with many othes, that if he may haue his money againe, hee will presently goe out of the towne. The Cutpurse taking H. his hand, that no man shall giue euidence against him at the Sessions, doth presently send abroad to his friends for the money: which as soone as it commeth, he deliuereth to H. and withall a large ouerplus, because he will be sure of H. his fauour.

This done, H. goes to the Countrey man, and tels him he got no more but fiue or seuen pound, of which if hee will accept, and proceed no further against the party, he hath it to pay him: mary hee will not be knowne to the Countrey man, but that hee had that money of some friends of the Cutpurses, who vpon the former condition, is willing it should be payd, if not, to haue his money againe.

The Countrey man hauing hast out of the Citie, is glad to take it: out of which summe, if it be seauen pounds, H. must haue halfe: so that the poore man of ten pounds, hath but three pound ten shillings, whereas the Cunny-catcher by this accompt hath got at one hand and an other, very neere forty Marke: the money shared, the Countrey man takes Horse, and away he rides: Againe, H. his mouth is stopt, and the next Sessions the Cutpurse is quit by Proclamation, no man being there to giue euidence against him.

Auth. O wonderfull peece of villany. Zan. I will trouble thee no further, thou hast tolde enough, and I will tell no more: who heares but this, which is already spoken, will hold these knaues for execrable varlets. So for this time I will commend thee to the other by sincelle, wishing thy liberty as I do my eyes: and if thou haue occasion, command mee to doe thee good, if it lye in my power.

Zany. Sir, I thanke you for your courteous offer: but yet I must tell you, I could tell twenty such prankes as these are, which these cunnycatching fellowes haue plaied: but in deed they keepe one order almost, in performing them all: but since you thinke here is inough, I will say no more, and so fare you well.

Author. Thus haue you heard, gentle Reader, how at large this Black Dogge is described: which Dogge as he is, is worthy of your generall hate: but for I haue with paines concluded my Booke vnder that title, I will not request you according to the old prouerbe, loue mee, loue my hound: but only, loue me, and hang my Dogge, for he is not worthy so good a name as a Hound.

The

Certaine feareful viſions appearing *to the Author of this Booke, moſt* and worthy to bee noted.

Hen as blacke Tytan with his dusky robe,
had Tellus clouded with his curtaines night,
faire Phebus peering vnderneath earths globe
with winged ſteeds hence takes his courſe a
Tytan he leaus to beare imperial ſway, (right
commanding night, as Phœbus did the day.

The fiery Chariot poſteth vnder ground,
With Tytans mantle all the earth is ſpred,
And wreathes of ſleat about his temples bound:
Earths Cell cole blacke, ſweet Morpheus cals to bed,
No time to walke, to ſport, to game, to ſee,
I did obey, that muſt commanded be.

Laied in my bed, I gan ſo; to recount,
A thouſand things, which had bene in my time:
My birth, my youth, my woes, which all ſurmount,
My life, my loſſe, my liberty, my crime:
Then where I was, vnto my minde recalling,
Me thought Earth gapt, and I to Hell was falling.

Amidſt theſe feares that all my ſenſes cumber,
Care cloſd mine eyes, and ſo;row wrung my heart:
Oppreſt with griefe, mine eye-lids gan to ſlumber,
But borne to woes, muſt of moze woes haue part:
A thouſand furies to my heart appearing,
Their vgly to;ments my ſoule with fearing.

Thus

Thus lay I long, beholding Hell and Deuils,
Agast with mazes, almost dead in feares,
Not knowing how to rid me from the cuils:
They shew in action, and in lokes appeares,
One anticke monster, hidious, foule and grim,
Me most appalld, and most I lookt at him.

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Thought I at last, I will cry out for aide,
Bowning to crie neare dead, afright with feare,
I heard a voice, which like an Angel, said:
Be not dismaid, for thou shalt see and heare
Men Deuils, Deuils Men, one both, both all deluding:
The Worlds cuils, wrack them, shepes cloth, The Wolues pray
(concluding.

Hearing a voice, my heart was much reuiued,
Noting the words, I did some corrage take:
But sodaine ioyes hath sodaine woes atchiued,
A sodaine noise this hellish crew did make,
Threatning by shewes as though they would deuoure
My life and soule, subdu'd by terrors powre.

Thought checkt my minde, feares senses all amazing,
Hell broken lose, eyes visions furies affrighting,
Subdu'd earths powers, byears hearts insight a gazing,
Terror of minde with hope, cries feares faint arighting:
Helpe me orequelled: waking with dread, I espied
Graft gracious Mynerua, who thus to my outcry replied.

FEare not at all, nor faint thou with beholding
But light thy Lampe, and take thy Pen in hand.
Write what thou sees, thy visions all vnfolding,
I will direct, and let thee vnderstand,
What all these hellhounds shadow by appearing.
View thou their worst, and then write of their fearing.

Sub-

Subdu'd by worths, which did all words exceed,
Rauisht with ioyes, such feature to behold,
Abiecting feare, my glutted eyes I fed,
Upon her brightnesse which all harmes controld:
Glimse of her brightnesse senses all indearing,
Legions of Deuils, could no more fright with fearing.

I prease my selfe to take the harpest taske,
And from the flint I beat forth sparkes of fire:
Kindling the lint, my ready match I fasle,
Welding my Lampe the light of my desire:
Soone spied Mynerua, with Lawrel crownd, and Bayes,
Myrror deuine, feature of worthlesse praise.

Before her feet submissiuely I fell,
Pardon I crau'd, fearing I was too bold:
Rise vp quoth she, and view these hags of hell,
For diuers secrets must thy pen vnfold.
Make true record, what shalbe shewd to thee,
For these are they, which Worlds deceauers be.

Ile clense thine eyes, least vapours do offend,
Ile cleare thy Wits, and giue a pleasing muse:
The deafest eare shall to thy talke attend,
The worke so worthy, thou may not refuse:
Newgates black Dogge with pen and inke depaint,
Curs, of this kind shall thereby haue restraint.

Not for my sake doe thou what I require,
But for his sake: and with that word me shoes
A faire old Man, whose teares foretold desire,
And in a mantle mourner-like he goes.
His veines like Azure, his heare as white as Wooll,
Tresses before, behind a bare smoth skull.

And this is Time, Minerua thus replied,
Which mournes to see these hellhounds Times abusing
How thousands in their rauening iawes haue died:
Slaughtering Lambes, yet to the world excusing,
Offence with cullor, shadowing mighty culs,
By name of seruice, and yet incarnat Deuils.

No more quoth she, but take thée to thy pen,
Resolue the Vilde, that they haue beene deceiu'd:
Many Blacke Dogs haue walkt in shapes of men,
And with deceites hath Common wealth agreeued:
His forme and lynaments to the world disclose,
That this Black Dogge be knowne where ere he goes.

My Muse gan blush, dreading to vndertake
so great a taske: but Time againe replide,
Feare not to all, Time doth the motion make,
Unmaske this Beast, let him no longer hide
Himselfe in showdes, who makes of sinne a scoff,
Worlds greatest admire, when as his vizards off.

Time then said I, faire Time I will not vse
Longer delay, but satisfie thy will:
So Time will answere for my harmlesse muse,
Who wanteth worth to nigh Parnassus hill,
Be briefe, quoth Time: with that I tooke my Pen,
Obeying Time, without offence to men.

Then did I fixe mine eye vpon this Beast,
Who did appeare first in the shape of Man,
Homly attyrde, of wonders not the least:
A Broome-mans song to sing this Dog began,
From stréet to stréet trudgeth along this Growne,
As if he would serue all the world with Broome.

But in a trice he did transforme his shape,
which stroke a trebble horror to my heart:
A Cerberus, nay worse, hee thrise as wide did gape,
His haires all Snakes curling, they will not part,
Coleblack his hew, like Torches glow his eyes,
Hie breath doth poyson, smoke from his nostrills flyes.

His countenance gastly, fearefull, grim, and pale,
His fomy mouth still gapeth for his pray:
With Tigers teeth he spares none to assaile,
His lippes Hell gates, ore painted with decay,
His toung the clapper sounding wofull knell,
Towling poore men to ring a peale in Hell,

Like Sepulcher his throat is hollow made,
Deuouring al whom danger makes a pray,
Bribery his hand, spoile of the poore his trade,
His fingers talents seazing to betray,
And with his armes he fouldeth men in woes,
Destruction still the path where ere he goes.

His thought his brest was all of burning Brasse,
Through which there grew a hart of hardest Stale:
His belly huge, like scalding furnace was,
His thighes both like vnto a fierie whale,
His legges were long, one foote like to a Hind,
The other foote a Pounds of bloody kind.

And in this shape I saw this monster walke,
About the streets, most fearfull to behold:
But more to tell, since I begin to talke,
Heere is the tale which Time would faine haue told.
Vpon a suddaine rusht this Cur on mee,
As though my life his euening prey should bee.

Within his clutches did he ceaze me fast,
And bare me straight vnto black Plutoes cell:
When there I came, he me in Lymbo cast,
A Stigion lake, the dungion of deepe hell:
But first my legs he lockt in Iron boult,
As if poore I had beene some wanton Coult.

And then he gan with baseft termes to braide,
and then he threats as though he would me kill:
And then he daunces for he me betrayd,
and then speakes faire, as though he meant no ill:
Then like Mæ 'usa doth he shake his locks,
and then he threatens me with Iron stocks.

At last he left me in that irksome den,
Where was no day, for there was euer night:
Woes me thought I, the abiect of all men,
Clouded in care, quite banished from light:
Robd of the Skie, the Starres, the day, the Sunne,
This Dog, this Diuell, hath all my ioyes vndun.

Surprest with anguish, sorrow, griefe and woe,
Me thought I heard a noise of Iron chaines:
Which din did torment and affright me so,
That all my sences studied what it meanes:
But by and by, which did me comfort more,
There came a man which opened Lymbos dore,

All leane he was, and feeble to God knowes,
Vpon his arme he bare a bunch of keyes:
With Candle-light about the cell he goes,
who roughly said, sir lye you at your ease:
Swearing an oath that I did lye too soft,
who lay on ground, and thus he at me scoft

To see a man of feature, forme and shape,
it did me good, and partly feares exiled:
But when I heard him give me like an Ape,
Then did I thinke that I was thrise beguiled.
Yet would I venture to this man to speake,
Into discourses thus I gan to breake.

Aye me poore wretch, that knowes not where I am,
Nor for what cause I am brought to this place:
Bound for the slaughter, lying like the Lambe,
the Butcher meanes to kill within a space.
My greeues are more then can my toung expresse,
Aye me, woes me, that can finde no redresse.

Yet if thou be as thou doest seeme a man,
And so thou art, if I do not mistake:
Do not encrease if so release thou can,
The cruell tortures which me wofull make.
And tell me first who thou thy selfe mayst be,
That art a man, and yet doest grieue at me.

Seeing the feares which did my heart possesse,
Viewing the teares that trickled from mine eyes:
He answered thus, a man I must confesse,
I am my selfe that heare condemned lyes.
And by the law adiudgd I am to dye,
But now the keeper of these keyes am I.

This house is Newgate, gently he replyed,
and this place Lymbo wherein now thou art:
Untill thou pay a fine, heare must thou bide,
With all these boults which do agreeue thy heart.
No other place may there prouided be,
Till thou content the keeper with a fee.

With that hee turnd as though he would away,
Sweete, bide a while, I did him him so intreat:
Quoth he, My friend, I can no longer stay,
yet what you want, if you will drinke or eate,
Or haue a fyer, or Candle by you burne,
Say what you need, and I will serue your turne.

Quoth I, deare friend then helpe me to a Fyer,
Let me haue Candle for to giue me light:
Nor meate nor drinke do I wish or desire,
But onely grant me gracious in thy sight.
And say, what monster was it plaid me heere?
who hath me almost liuelesse made with feare.

Nay peace quoth he, for there begins a tale,
Rest now content, and Time will tell thee more,
To striue in Fetters it will small auaile:
Seeke first to ease thy legges which will grow sore,
When boults are off, we will that matter handle.
So he departed, leauing me a Candle.

Away he went, and leaues me to my woes,
And beeing gone, I could not choose but thinke,
That he was kind, though first vnkind in shewes,
who offered me both fire, bread and drinke.
Leauing a Candle by me for to burne,
it eas'd my griefe, and made me lesse to mourne.

Joying to see, who whilome had no light,
I reacht the Candle, which by burning stands,
But I vnworthy comfort of the light,
a Rat doth rob the Candle from my hands,
And then a hundred Rats all sally forth,
as if they would conuoy their prize of worth.

To see a man of feature, forme and shape,
it did mee good, and partly feares exiled:
But when I heard him gibe me like an Ape,
Then did I thinke that I was thrise beguiled.
Yet would I venture to this man to speake,
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My greeues are more then can my young expresse,
Aye me, woes me, that can finde no redresse.

Yet if thou be as thou doest seeme a man,
And so thou art, if I do not mistake:
Do not encrease if so release thou can,
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And being gone, I could not choose but thinke,
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it eas'd my griefe, and made me lesse to mourne.

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I reacht the Candle, which by burning stands,
But I vnworthy comfort of the light,
a Rat doth rob the Candle from my hands,
And then a hundred Rats all sally forth,
as if they would conuoy their prize of worth.

In vaine I striue to recobtaine whats lost,
My woes are now, as woes at first began:
With change of greeues my perplext soule is tost.
To see the end I did bethinke me than.
How time had promisd secrets to disclose,
So I expect the worst of hellish foes.

Whilst thus I lay in Irons vnder ground,
I heard a man that begged for releefe:
And in a chaine of Iron was he bound,
Whose clattering noyse fils full my heart with griefe.
Begging one penny to buy a hundred bread,
Hungerd and sterud, for want of food nye dead.

Woes me thought I, for thee so bound in chaines,
Woes me for them, thou begs for to sustaine:
Woes me for all, whose want all woes containes,
woes me, for me, that in your woes complaine.
Woes me, woes you, and woe is to vs all,
woe to that Dogge, made me to woe a thrall,

Whilst thus I languish, I on sudaine heare,
An vncoth noyse which did approch my den:
Listning, vnto the doore, I laid mine eare,
And then I knew the voyces were of men.
Still in nærenesse drew they more and more,
At last I heard them opening Lymboes doore,

In first there came, the man that gaue me light,
and next the Dogge, who brought me to that place:
Another with a Club appeard in sight,
Three weaponlesse, as though they mon'd my case,
Fainting for feare, I knew not what to say,
Expecting then performance of decay.

But

But now this Dog is in another shape,
In euery point proportiond as a man:
My heart did throb, not knowing how to scape,
but to intreat this Curre, I thus began.
Fayre friend, quoth I, if so thy will may be,
To ease my griefe Ile giue thee any fee.

With that he grind, and thus he made reply,
Thou art a villaine, worthy of this place:
Thy fault is such, that thou shalt surely dye,
I will not pitty thee in any case.
Such as thou art, too many euery where,
But I will seeke in time to haue them heare.

When he nam'de Time, then I on Time did thinke,
But more he sayes, if thou haue any coyne:
To pay for ease, I will a little winke,
And boults releasment, with discharge Ile ioyne.
Of this close prison to some other warde,
Paying thy fine, or else all ease is hard.

Like as the childe doth kisse the rod for feare,
Nor yet dare whimper, though it haue beene bet:
So with smoothlookes, this Dog approach I neare,
Before the Diuell, a candle do I set.
Treating him faire, with fairest words may be,
Bidding him aske, he shall haue gold of me.

Why then, quoth he, thy speeches please me well,
Partners (quoth he) strike off his Irons all:
Then vp we went, as one should clime from hell,
Vntill I came into a loathsome hall.
When there I came, they set me on a block,
with punch and hammer, my Irons off they knock.

No meruaile though, whilſt they my legs vntide,
Mine eyes did ſurfet, drinke with woes beholding,
Boults, ſhackles, colors, and Iron, ſheares I ſpide,
Thumbſtalls, waſt bands, tortors greefe vnfolding,
But whileſt the eaſe of legs my ſorrowes calme,
Roome quoth a wretch, for me with widdowes almes.

Take of theſe curtalls did another crie,
And on his knees he fell before this Cur,
Who to his ſorrowing mad a Dogs reply,
Downe to thy ward, and do not make this ſtur,
What now I know, if I had knowne before,
In ſtead of theſe light chaines thou ſhouldſt had more.

With that the poore man was thruſt out of ſight,
And I all fearing, feard with feare of feares:
My Irons off, I went, as go I might
Vnto this Dog, in whom all diuells apeares,
With golden Angel I this cur preſented,
Saith he, one more, els I am not contented.

Wonder it was to ſée a fiend of Hell,
To thirſt for angels of the faireſt hue:
But Diuells are Deuills, and they would all orequell,
Mans life and ſoule, this Dog ſéekes to ſubdue:
His mouth to ſtop Angels I gaue him two.
Yéelding perforce, as I perforce muſt do.

And then he left me in the Partners hall,
The grate doth open, and this Dog out goes,
Thouſand ſorrowes holds my heart in thrall:
Yet there I am not by my ſelfe in woes
Hereon oreplunged with deep harts greeſe cryes,
I liue a life thriſe worſe then he that dies.

An

An other sorry soule, without a ragge,
Hurckling for cold, in whom all want appeares:
At last gan speake, as if hee ment to bragge,
And thus he sayes: Heare haue I beene nine yeares.
Tell you of woes, when you my woes haue seene,
And yet haue many men more woefull beene.

With that I rose, and to this poore man went,
In hope to learne some nouls by his talke:
Approching him, amidst his discontent,
He asked me, if so I pleasd to walke?
And if you will, then follow vp these staires,
To walke, and talke, deceiueth Time of cares.

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I followed him, as he that in a wood,
Hath lost himselfe, and knowes no way he takes:
And in distresse I thought conferring good,
New woes with old, iust mixture comfort makes.
And though the place do naught but discord sound,
My soule for his our discords concord found.

At first he gently take me by the hand,
and bids me welcome, as I were his guest:
You are a prisoner, I do understand,
and hether welcome are both bad and best.
Men of all sorts come for offending hether,
and beeing heare, heare bide they all together.

And then he did begin thus to discourse,
Cease to lament with vaine dispayring teares:
Thy selfe dissolu'd to droppes, gaines no remorse,
Heares none regards, though all my mournings heares.
If vnder earth, the Diuels can prooue a hell,
Theirs is not like to this, where wretches dwell.

See in yon Hall are diuers sorts of men, (hands,
Some weep, some waile, some mourne, some wring their
Some curse, some sweare, and some blaspheming then,
My heart did faint, my head haire vpright stands.
O Lord thought I, this house will rend in sunder,
Or else there can be no hell, this hell vnder.

Thus wondring I, on suddaine did espie,
One all in black came stamping vp the staires:
Whose yon I aske, and thus he made reply,
Yon is the man doth mitigate our cares.
He preacheth Christ, and doth Gods word deliuer,
To all distrest, to comfort men for euer.

Then drew I neare to see what might betide,
Or what the sequell was of that I saw:
Expecting good would follow such a guide,
As preached Christ, and taught a God to know.
Ahundred clustered nying the pulpit neare,
As if they longd the Gospell for to heare.

Whats this, quoth I, that now I do behold,
The hags of hell, and Sathans impious limbs,
Some deeper secret doth this sight vnfold,
Then I can gesse, this sight my sences dims.
Straight of my friend I asked by and by,
What it might be, who made me this reply.

Yon men which thou beholds so pale and wan,
who whiles lookes vp, whiles looking downe beneath,
Are all condemnd, and they must dye each man.
Iudgment is giuen, that corde shall stop their breath.
For haynous facts, as murther, theft, and treason,
Vnworthy life, to dye law thought it reason.

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The Sermon ended, the men condemn'd to dye,
Taking their leaues of their acquainted friends:
With sorry lookes paying their steps they plye,
Downe to a hall, where for them there attends.
A man of office, who to daunt liues hopes,
Doth corde their hands, & scarfe their necks with ropes.

Thus rept and corded, they discend the staires,
Newgates Black Dog, bellurs to play his part:
And doth not cease for to augment their cares,
willing the Carman to set neare his Cart.
Which done, these men, with feare of death orepangd,
Bound to the Cart, are carried to be hangd.

This rufull sight, yet end to their damnd sorrowes,
Makes me agast, and forces me bethinke,
Woe vpon woe, and so from wofull borrowes,
A swarme of greefe, and then I sounding sinke.
But by Mines ayde, I did reuiue againe,
Wight I haue dyed, it had beene lesser paine.

For now againe the Dog a fresh assaults me,
As if my spoile were next to be inacted:
And like a subtill Cur in speeches halts he,
With thousand sleighty wiles, old shifts temperted.
Charging me oft with that I neuer did,
In his smoothst lookes, are cruell bitings hid.

I spake him faire, as if I had offended,
He treats me foule, who neuer did him ill:
He playes the gripe on Tytius intended,
To tire his heart, yet neuer hath his fill.
Euen so this Dog doth tyre and prey on me,
Till quite consumd, my golden angels be.

Then woefull want did make me oft complaine,
Hunger and cold do pinch me at the heart:
Then am I thrust out of my bed againe,
And from my chamber must I needs depart.
To lowest wards, to lye vpon the boords,
which naught but filth and noysome smels affoords.

Midst forty men, surpriſd with care and greefe,
I lye me downe on boords as hard as chenell:
No bed, nor boulster may afford releefe,
For worse then Dogs, lye we in that foule kennell.
What might I thinke, but sure assureme then,
That metamorphosd we were beasts not men.

Greefe vpon greefe, did still oppresse my minde,
Yet had I store compartners in my woe:
No ease, but anguish, my distresses finde,
Here lyes a man, his last lines breath doth blow.
And ere the sorry man be fully dead,
The Rats do prey vpon his face and head.

Whilst thus I languish in my woes, appeares
Time in his mantle, looking fresh and blythe:
Yet whiles his eyes did shed some drops of teares,
wherewith he semd, as he would whet his sithe.
Quoth Tyme, by me shall sorrowes be appeased,
And nowe the time thou shalt of cares be eased.

I did present this Worke which I had writ,
into Times hands, who tooke it and perused it;
Yea, but saith Time, thou must discover yet,
who this Dog is, who else will be excused.
For albe I so cleard thine eyes to see him,
So may not others, yet Time would haue all eye him.

And for thy verses couertly disclose,
The secrets sence, and yet doth shadow truth:
Explaine this Black Dog, who he is in prose,
For more apparant, then thy Poem sheweth.
Truth needs no coulours, then this Dog by kinde,
Make knowne before, as hee is knowne behinde.

My Sythe, quoth Time, is now prepard to cut,
There is no sithe, but Tymes shall longer dure:
Newgates Black Dog, must Time so mence put,
I le breake his teeth, and make his biting sure.
The shapes of men, on Dogs of cruell kinde,
Time shall confound, that beare so bud a minde.

Haue thou no doubt, but Time shall set thee free,
and yet hereafter learne thou to beware:
Of this Black Dog, and do his dangers flee,
Giue others warning, least like fall their share.
Say to the world, when thou art freed from hell,
Newgates Black Dog thou saw, and knew too well.

And for thy Poem drawes to a conclusion,
Times pleasure is, that thou this Dog expresse:
In shape, in nature, man: yet mens confusion,
A madding Cur, who doth from kinde regresse.
A Mothers sonne, and most for to be wondred,
Of Mothers sonnes, this Dog hath spoild a hundred.

In lowly sort, complaine to highest powers,
Truth will be heard, and truth must not be hid:
With Fore-like wiles, this Dog poore soules deuoures,
This Dog of men, desipher I thee bid.
And though there be Curs many of his kinde.
Say but the truth, and yet leaue nought behinde.

When Time hath said, I from my feares shrinke,
Yet had I writt what premises containes:
Twas no illusion mou'd mee this Poem make,
But greefes indured, and woes my heart sustaines,
Greefe, care, and woe, my silly heart do clog,
Fettered to shame by this Cur Newgates Dog.

Now as I have describ'd him in some sort,
As he is fearefull vnto all him see:
His diuellish practises giuen to report,
And set them downe as wicked as they be.
Here ends my Poem, Newgates black Dog by name,
As it deserues either commend or blame.

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When Time had said, I from my feares awake,
Yet had I writ what premises containes:
Twas no illusion mou'd me this Poem make,
But greefes indured, and woes my heart sustaines,
Greefe, care, and woe, my silly heart do clog,
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FINIS.

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